

opportunity to prepare fully developed comments.

4. In a letter of November 19, 1996, CDE stated that after reviewing the Broadcasters opposition filing, it now intends to offer comments that advance an alternative procedure that would provide flexibility in resolving the numerous technical issues that impact DTV allotments. CDE therefore amended its earlier request to support the comment date plan suggested by the Broadcasters.

5. We agree with the Broadcasters that it is desirable to complete our action adopting an initial DTV Table of Allotments as soon as possible. We find that the alternative plan for filing comments and reply comments suggested by the Broadcasters, rather than that originally suggested by CDE, is appropriate in the interests of developing a complete record on the DTV channel allotment matter and of accommodating the demands of the holiday season. We therefore are extending the date for filing reply comments to January 10, 1997. In addition, we will accept late-filed comments that are filed within a reasonable period of time after the November 22, 1996, due date for comments.

6. Accordingly, *It is ordered* that Broadcasters' request that we accept late-filed comments for a reasonable period of time and that we provide additional time for the filing of reply comments, as supported by CDE in its supplemental filing, *Is granted* as indicated herein. *It is further ordered* the time for filing reply comments relating to the *Sixth FNPRM is extended* to January 10, 1997. This action is taken pursuant to authority found in Sections 4(i) and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i) and 303(r), and Sections 0.202(b), 0.283 and 1.45 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.204(b), 0.283 and 1.45.

Federal Communications Commission.

William F. Caton,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-30542 Filed 11-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 285, 630, 644, and 678

[I.D. 112296A]

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Consolidation of Regulations

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Public hearings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold six public hearings to receive comments from fishery participants and other members of the public on the proposed consolidation of existing Highly Migratory Species (HMS) regulations. The proposed rule would provide the public with a single reference source for the regulations applying to Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks, which is clearer and easier to use than the existing regulations. The proposed rule is part of the President's Regulatory Reinvention Initiative.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for specific dates and times of hearings. Written comments and suggestions on the consolidation must be received on or before December 23, 1996.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for locations of the hearings. Written comments should be sent to Christopher Rogers, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, (F/SF1), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the proposed rule are available from the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Rogers, (301) 713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A complete description of the measures, and the purpose and need for the proposed action, are contained in the proposed rule published November 6, 1996 (61 FR 57361) and are not repeated here.

NMFS requests comments or suggestions for further consolidation or elimination of obsolete or duplicative provisions contained in the proposed revision to Atlantic HMS regulations. Comments concerning the impacts of identified and or other substantive changes are also requested.

The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. Monday, December 9, 1996, 1 to 3 p.m.—NOAA Building 2, Room 14316,

1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910;

2. Monday, December 9, 1996, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.—Virgin Islands Gamefish Association, Red Hook, St. Thomas, USVI 00802;

3. Tuesday, December 10, 1996, 6 to 9 p.m.—NMFS Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive, North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702;

4. Tuesday, December 10, 1996, 7 to 10 p.m.—Ponce Hilton, Malecon Avenue, Playa de Ponce, Ponce, PR 00732;

5. Wednesday, December 11, 1996, 6 to 10 p.m.—Kings Grant Quality Inn, Route 128 at Trask Lane, Danvers, MA 01923;

6. Friday, December 13, 1996, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.—North Carolina Aquarium, Airport Road, Manteo, NC 27954.

The meeting locations are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Christopher Rogers at (301) 713-2347 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

To accommodate people unable to attend a hearing or wishing to provide additional comments, NMFS also solicits written comments on the proposed rule.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 25, 1996.

George Darcy,

Acting Office Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-30570 Filed 11-29-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

50 CFR Part 679

[Docket No. 961121323-6323-01; I.D. 111396C]

RIN 0648-AJ05

Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Increase Halibut Quota Share Use Limits in Area 4

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes to implement a regulatory amendment to the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program for fixed gear Pacific halibut fisheries in and off Alaska. This action would increase halibut quota share (QS) use limits for QS holders in IFQ regulatory